

NEW FISHES FROM THE UPPER MURRUMBIDGEE.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.

At the last monthly meeting of this Society, I exhibited four species of Fishes from the streams forming the upper waters of the Murrumbidgee. They had been collected and sent to me by Charles Jenkins, Esq., of Yass, a gentleman well known to this Society by his Papers on the Palæontology of that district. One of the four Fishes is a *Galaxias* taken in the Yass River; I believe it to be a species hitherto undescribed, but in the absence of sufficient evidence of a conclusive kind I shall postpone, for the present, giving it a distinctive name. Another of the Fishes, a *Gadopsis*, taken in the Little River, I shall treat in the same way. One species of *Gadopsis* only has been described. It is found in rivers in Tasmania, Victoria, and New South Wales, but I have long thought that those of the genus found in the western rivers of New South Wales were of much more elongate form than the original *Gadopsis marmoratus* of Tasmania. I must defer, however, any attempt to solve my doubts, until I can procure some specimens of the Fish from Tasmania. The other two Fishes are undoubtedly new and are here described.

OLIGORUS GIBBICEPS. n. sp.

Of rather elongate form, and slightly compressed. The line of the back is straight from the top of the head to the tail. The height of the body is one-fifth, and the length of the head is one-fourth of the total length. The head descends almost vertically in front of the eyes to the mouth, which is horizontally protruded, the lower jaw being the longest. The maxillary extends backwards to below the middle of the orbit; the eyes are large, lateral and near the top of the head. The dorsal and anal spines are

larger proportionally than in *Oligorus Macquariensis*, there seems also to be a difference in the character of the speckled marking, which in this species seems to be formed of short angular linear or semi-circular spots.

One specimen, nearly 8 inches long, is all I have ever seen or heard of, of this very extraordinary looking Fish. It was captured in the Murrumbidgee River in the neighbourhood of Yass. The most striking feature is the head, but its elongate form and straight back also show a marked difference from the other species of the genus.

MURRAYIA JENKINSI. n. sp.

D. 11/12. A. 3/8. L. lat. about 50.

Of compressed form; the height of the body one fourth of the total length. The profile descends in a regular slope from the 1st dorsal spine to the snout, which is rounded and tumid; the mouth is small; the eyes rather large and about two of their diameters apart. The head is, with the exception of small scales on the cheek and operculum, entirely naked, and covered with large rounded pits, similar pits extend in a double row on the lower limb of the preoperculum, and to a more limited extent on the posterior limb; the maxillary scarcely reaches to the vertical from the anterior margin of the eye. The preoperculum is straight behind and densely serrated, the serrations become a little longer at the angle, and larger and more distant on the lower edge. The operculum has the lower spine which is the largest of the two, bifid, the upper branch the shortest, the other spine is broad and flat, the lower edge of the operculum is finely and densely serrated; the caracoid and scapular are also serrated. The dorsal spines are strong, the fifth is the largest; the anal spines are also strong, thesecond strongest and slightly longer than the third. The first ray of the pectoral fin is elongate. The lateral line is almost straight, the scales of moderate size.

It is difficult to guess even at what the coloration has been, as in addition to the fish having been long in spirits, most of the scales

have been rubbed off, but it seems to have been silvery-grey, with many very minute black dots.

The only specimen of this fish I have seen is about 5 inches long, and was taken in the Murrumbidgee in the Yass District. The genus *Murrayia* was formed by Count Castelnau a number of years ago, for the reception of some fishes which he had received from the Murray River or some of its ana-branches in the Deniliquin District. He described three species:—*Murrayia Guntheri*, *cyprinoides*, and *bramoides*, all from the same locality, and averaging from a foot to 14 inches in length. I have never seen any of them, and indeed the fish I have now described is the only one of the genus I have seen, although I resided for many years on the banks of the Murrumbidgee. The genus is a very good one, and shows a decided affinity to the genus *Ctenolates* of Gunther.